



Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

NEWS

Office of the Governor

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, State House, Providence, RI 02903

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CONTACT: Jeff Neal
222-8290

CARCIERI ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTOR, GRANTS FOR ADULT EDUCATION 23 Agencies to Receive \$4 million in Funding

Governor Donald L. Carcieri today announced the selection of the first Director of Adult Education, reporting to the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. He also announced the distribution of nearly \$4 million in grants to 23 community organizations for Adult Basic and Workforce Education, Family Literacy Grants and Project Opportunity.

The Governor made his announcement at Progreso Latino, which will receive \$458,000 for English language literacy and adult education and GED classes. The Governor was joined by Education Commissioner Peter McWalters, Adelita Orefice, Director of the RI Department of Labor and Training, Ron Gallo, President and CEO of the Rhode Island Foundation, Marianela Dougal, Deputy Director of Progreso Latino, and the new Director of Adult Education, Johan Uvin.

“We conducted a national search for the important position of Director of Adult Education,” Governor Carcieri said. “Today I am very pleased to announce that Johan Uvin will be serving in this capacity.”

“In all of the positions he has held, Johan has always placed an emphasis on integrating adult basic education with economic and workforce development,” Governor Carcieri said. “He understands both the needs of students and of the business community. This will enable us to enhance adult literacy, fuel our economy and make our state more competitive.”

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“Johan Uvin is taking on the vital task of ensuring that Rhode Island maintains a literate and well-trained workforce,” said Peter McWalters, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. “He brings to the job a long list of accomplishments in workforce development and adult education, both in private industry and state government. I look forward to working with him as we strive to improve the lives of Rhode Island students, workers, and their families,” he concluded.

Dr. Uvin is looking forward to the challenges ahead, saying “I am delighted to be part of Rhode Island’s effort to improve and expand Adult Basic Education in the state. With the Governor’s leadership and the broadly supported recommendations of his Adult Literacy Task Force, the state is well positioned to improve the outcomes and impact of its Adult Basic Education programs. The recommendations represent a unique opportunity for the public and private sectors to work together to improve the skills of our workers and ultimately to further improve the competitiveness of our businesses and the prosperity of the residents of our state.”

The 23 agencies receiving adult literacy grants represent all areas of the state and the many diverse aspects of adult education. The Blackstone Valley Community Action Program will receive \$166, 000 for its Adult Self-Sufficiency through Education Program., while Community College of Rhode Island will receive more than \$380,000 for adult education classes at both the Lincoln and Providence campuses and for employer-sponsored worksite programs.

Progreso Latino Executive Director Marianela Dougal is pleased with the \$458,000 grant her organization is receiving. “We will ensure that community residents receive excellent adult education services that will support them in reaching their educational and professional goals,” she said. “Progreso Latino will provide literacy, English, Pre-GED, GED, and Computer Literacy classes to name a few that will open opportunities for career training and/or higher education. Our goal is to ensure that every community member is better equipped to compete in today’s labor market, where skills such as speaking English and solving problems within a team environment are crucial.”

Grants are also awarded to Comprehensive Community Action, Cranston Alternative Education Program, Crossroads RI, Dorcas Place, English for Action, International Institute and the Genesis Center in Providence. RIC Outreach, Crossroads RI and the Institute for Labor Studies are also receiving grants.

The Aquidneck Island Learning Center, Newport Even Start, the Providence Plan, Providence Public Library and Rhode Island Regional Adult Learning are also receiving grants, as are the Pawtucket COZ, Tri-Town Community Action Agency, Washington County ALC, Westbay Community Action Program, and Woonsocket Even Start.

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